



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Poodle Rescued From Icy Pond

February 26, 2010 – Waterford, VA – A poodle named Maxine is home and resting comfortably today after a harrowing rescue from an icy pond in Round Hill on Thursday.

Loudoun County Animal Control received a call shortly before 2:00pm that a dog had fallen through the ice on a pond at a property on West Loudoun Street. Round Hill Fire and Rescue personnel were already on scene when Lead Animal Control Officer Mark Stacks arrived.

The black standard Poodle was able to rest her head on the side of the ice but did not have enough energy to stay afloat and submerged under the water multiple times. Officer Stacks and a firefighter donned rescue vests and tied off onto safety lines to go out on the ice. The firefighter fell through the ice approximately 15 yards off of the shore. Officer Stacks attempted to assist him out of the water, and the pressure of this effort broke the ice he was standing on and he also fell through the ice into the frigid water.

Officer Stacks was able to get back out of the water and on top of the ice, crawling close enough to the dog to use a rescue pole to snag the dog's collar and pull it out of the water. After pulling the dog close he was able to crawl back to shore. Animal Control Officer Lisa Shaw then took the poodle to a nearby emergency animal hospital for evaluation. Maxine was treated for hypothermia and was later released to the care of her grateful owners, who were on the scene of the rescue. She is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery.

"Officer Stacks is to be commended for his quick thinking and ability to conduct a safe and successful rescue," noted Animal Care & Control Director Thomas Koenig. "His efforts ensured that this dog was returned to her family safely without putting himself or other rescuers at risk."

Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Department information can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

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